

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER



Record Turnout For Citizens On Patrol Kickoff!

BY CY GOVERNS

Over 100 Lake Walker and Evesham Park residents joined together on Saturday, March 7, for the kickoff of our joint Citizens on Patrol program. Baltimore City Police Community Relations Officer Doug Gibson said that it was the largest turnout he's ever seen for such a program! After a short introduction by Major Ross Buzzuro and Councilman Bill Henry, the group took to the streets in orange safety vests (patrolling pooches donned orange bandanas) to show our community's renewed commitment to safety.

Both Major Buzzuro and Officer Doug Gibson took a few minutes to discuss how we can all minimize thefts and vehicle break-ins. Here are some of the tips they shared:

- If you open windows in your home, make sure they are closed and locked before you leave the house.
- If you have a garage or a shed, make sure that it is locked securely.
- If you have an alarm system — use it!
- Make sure that you do not leave ANYTHING of value in your car (electronics, CDs, GPS, etc.).

- Let a neighbor know when you are going on vacation so that they can keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

- If you observe suspicious activity, call 911, not 311. If the matter requires immediate action by police, use 911.

Officer Gibson cautioned residents to be smart about reporting activity: discreetly take notes (written, mental) of what you saw and where, then wait until you are at a safe distance to report it.

This was such a successful kickoff to this program — hopefully we'll be seeing a lot of orange in the coming months! Thank you to everyone who participated. And a special thanks to Officer Doug Gibson, Major Ross Buzzuro, and Councilman Bill Henry for taking the time to speak to us about the logistics and benefits of a Citizens on Patrol program. A bushel of kudos to Nancy Amato and Jill Megaro (Co-Chairs of LWCA Citizens on Patrol), and Diana Bersani for all their work to make this a successful event (complete with drinks and cookies)!

For more info about joining, contact Jill Megaro (410-464-0917) or Nancy Amato (410-340-2991).

calendar OF events

MARCH

3/28 Dumpster
at corner of
Hollen and Yorkshire — 9am-noon

Lake Walker Community Association General Meeting

Tuesday, March 31
7:30pm — Arbor Oaks meeting room.
Please bring non-perishable canned food for the CARES food pantry.

APRIL

4/1 York Road Partnership Meeting — 7:15pm @ St. Mary's Church Hall, 5502 York Road, parking and entrance in the rear of the church. Recurring mtg on first Wed. of every month: 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2

4/18 LW Spring Cleanup
(see page 3 for details)

MAY

5/2 Spring plant exchange
10am-12pm — corner of Cedarcroft and Yorkshire (see page 3 for details)

5/20 Northern Police District Meeting — 7:00pm at the Northern District Police Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Lane (just west of I-83 on your left). Questions? Call Officers Jon Walter or Doug Gibson at 410 367-8491. Recurring mtg on third Wed. of every OTHER month: 7/15, 9/16, 11/18



JUNE

6/2 **LWCA General meeting**
7:30pm – Arbor Oaks meeting room

6/6 **Dumpster** at corner of
Hollen and Yorkshire – 9am-noon

6/20 **Community Yard Sale**

JULY

7/12 **Evesham Park**
Concert in the Park

AUGUST

8/15 **Dumpster** at corner of
Hollen and Yorkshire – 9am-noon

SEPTEMBER

9/12 **LWCA Block Party**

OCTOBER

10/3 **Dumpster** at corner of
Hollen and Yorkshire – 9am-noon

10/17 **Mayor's Fall Cleanup**

10/28 **LWCA General meeting**
7:30pm (Tentative)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Your Neighborhood Needs You

Lake Walker is already buzzing with springtime activity. Less than one week after the big snowfall, thermometers topped 70° and over 100 people joined our Citizens on Patrol kick-off walk. Thanks to Nancy Amato and Jill Megaro for starting and organizing this much-needed effort. For more on what's buzzing, flying, and growing in Lake Walker read Sue Hums "Nature in the Neighborhood" column and come to the spring clean-up and plant exchange (see related articles). And remember, you don't need a special day to clean up your yard or street!

LWCA Elections were held at the February 10 general meeting. Jim Aber was voted in as Vice-President, Scott Donnelly as Treasurer, Cy Governs as Secretary, and I was re-elected as President. Thanks to Marita Manna, outgoing Vice President, and Barb Dent, outgoing Treasurer, for their excellent service.

The LWCA Board is committed to improving communication and participation in the community, but a vital community requires everyone's efforts. Richard Messick stepped up to volunteer to lead a committee to give our electronic communications a much-needed overhaul, and improve communications in general (see related article). Our newsletter has a spiffy new look, thanks to the talented Darby Lassiter who volunteered to redesign and layout Lake Walker's venerable rag. This is one local newspaper that has no intention of going under!

The community needs lots more volunteers like Nancy, Jill, Sue, Diana, Scott, Cy, Richard, Jim and Darby. Would you like to start a welcoming committee to greet new neighbors? Organize a Halloween or holiday party for the kids? Contribute to the newsletter? Join the Citizens on Patrol? Organize any other activity? If so, please contact a board member or committee chair. If there is something you would like to see happen, do something to make it happen!

Janet Abramovitz, President

Lake Walker Community Association

PO Box 11391
Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

OFFICERS

President – Janet Abramovitz, 6313 Weidner Ave
410-433-2703, janet_abramovitz@yahoo.com

Vice President – Jim Aber, 616 Highwood Rd
410-323-7475 jabetes555@aol.com

Treasurer – Scott Donnelly, 718 Cedarcroft Rd
410-323-5432, scott@mobtowntees.com

Secretary – Cy Governs, 705 Gittings Ave
410-433-1309, cygoverns@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Block Captain Chair – Jim Pickett
801 Cedarcroft Rd, 410-433-5257, djpick@verizon.net

Block Party Chair – Jim Pickett
801 Cedarcroft Rd, 410-433-5257, djpick@verizon.net

Communications Committee Chair – Richard Messick
711 Hollen Rd, rfmessick@comcast.net

Citizens on Patrol Chair – Jill Megaro
Lake Ave, 410-464-0917

Newsletter Editor – Janet Abramovitz
6313 Weidner Ave 410-433-2703
janet_abramovitz@yahoo.com

Newsletter Design – Darby Lassiter
6308 Clearspring Rd, 410-323-6558

City Plans Weekly Recycling

On Feb. 12, the Department of Public Works held a meeting to introduce proposed changes to its trash and recycling services.

The new "One-Plus-One" program is currently before the City Council as Bill #09-0284. Under the proposed plan, each City household will have once-weekly trash pickup and once-weekly recycling pickup. If a scheduled pickup falls on a holiday (as it frequently does in Lake Walker), Saturday will be

used as a make-up day. The city expects improved efficiency, service, and savings from the overall of the waste collection program, which has been essentially unchanged for 30 years. If this bill passes, changes will take place on July 1, 2009. More info is available at: <http://www.cleangreenerbaltimore.org/media>.

DPW also introduced a long-term plan, which is NOT part of One-Plus-One, to provide 64-gallon standard municipal cans for all city residents. The department is aware that they have a lot of details to straighten out (e.g., a waiver program, enforcement issues) before they can implement a standard municipal can program.





Nature In The Neighborhood

In the middle of winter, spring is on the way. While our winter visitor birds, the slate colored Northern Junco and the White-throated Sparrow, hop and scratch in the garden looking for seeds and wintering-over bugs, the Yellowed-bellied Sapsucker has begun drilling holes in the magnolia tree waiting for sap to flow.

The ever-ugly opossum are busy looking for mates as are the red fox that frequent the neighborhood. A Cooper's Hawk chases and misses lunch in the form of a sparrow (they are successful only 20% of the time) while its mate calls with a screeching kik-kik-kik. The grass on Hollen Road is getting green. Signs of spring are everywhere.

As January rolls into February, flocks of blackbirds (starlings, grackles, red-winged blackbirds and brown-headed cowbirds) arrive. Robins will flock in yards. A birdbath will draw robins to your yard for a well needed bath and a long drink. Pine grosbeaks and cedar waxwings might stop by. Robins, cedar waxwings and mockingbirds are busy eating holly berries.

Witch hazel blooms. Snowdrops poke their heads up through snow. Forsythia blooms in early March. The male song sparrow sings on my fence each morning.

The Carolina Wren loudly sings early in the morning. Male goldfinches turn bright yellow.

Lake Walker has an abundance of wildlife. I have seen over 60 species of birds in my yard (having 6 feeders and 4 nest boxes helps). An opossum is constantly waddling past my bedroom window looking for tasty bugs and other things. Raccoons have been on the deck, in the yard and chased up a tree by my dog, Lilly. A red fox has been seen effortlessly jumping the fence between my yard and my neighbor's yard. Squirrels are hungry and have taken over the yard and gardens due to a lack of acorns this year. I'm told that deer are in Lake Walker, also. Each is getting ready for spring.

Now is the time to clean out birdhouses and get them ready for spring tenants. Hang up a birdfeeder. Black oil sunflower is relatively inexpensive birdseed and a favorite of most birds. A birdbath or even a dish of water will attract even more birds. Watch for green in the yard and listen for noisy chatter and beautiful songs from birds. Spring is on the way.

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Sue Hums
susanhums@yahoo.com

Communication Committee Formed



The Lake Walker website is on its way! A new committee was formed at the last general meeting to address the communication needs of the community and convened the following week to discuss various ways to meet those needs. We touched on face-to-face outreach and assisting with print communication, but were primarily concerned with developing a website and improving electronic communication.

The preliminary plans are to have a two-tiered website with both public and private access. The public area will contain information about the association, such as history of Lake Walker, contact information, and photographs. The private area of the site would be restricted to community members and require a login. It will provide a calendar of community events, the directory, discussion forums, and official LWCA information, such as bylaws, meeting notes, and committee lists.

Over a dozen people have stepped up to help with the work involved in building this site. It is in its earliest stages, which requires developing a structure, designing its appearance, and collecting content. We look forward to improving communications within the community and launching www.lakewalker.org.

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Richard Messick
Chair, LWCA Communications Committee
711 Hollen Rd., 410-323-6883

LAKE WALKER SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, April 18th starting at 10am.
Meet at the community garden on the NE corner of York & Walker. This coincides with the Mayor's Spring Clean Sweep Thing. Our main focus will be to pick up debris on both sides of Walker Ave. as well as to weed the community garden.
Bring work gloves. We will be finished well before noon.

SPRING PLANT EXCHANGE

Saturday, May 2nd, 10am to 12pm at the Picketts, Cedarcroft & Yorkshire (410-433-5257). It is not necessary to bring anything to exchange. There are always lots of plants, and experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and give advice.

spring
EVENTS



Join the
Lake Walker
List Serve

...Receive up-to-the-minute community news
...Crime alerts ...and more!
To join, send an email containing your name, street address, and phone # to: lakewalker-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You must also register with Yahoo.



LAKE WALKER COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Want to turn your trash into cash? If so, join the community yard sale on June 20, 9am-2pm. Just set-up in your own yard and LWCA will do the advertising!

Reach over 700 households by advertising in the Lake Walker newsletter. If you are interested please contact Janet Abramovitz - 410-433-2703.

Have YOU paid your COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?

Your dues pay for the block party, the newsletter and community events. Please forward all payments to Lake Walker Community Association, Attention Scott Donnelly, PO Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391. **Please make sure checks are made out to LWCA.** \$10 per household, \$5 for seniors.

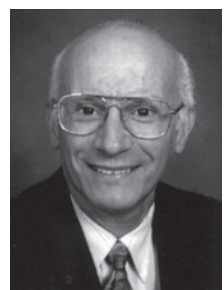
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Lake Walker Resources



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E-Mail: paul.quintilian@longandfoster.com



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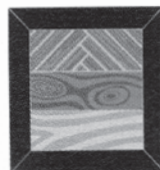
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